



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

PHYSARIA BRASSICOIDES **DOUBLE BLADDERPOD**

Double Bladderpod is a perennial with numerous ascending stems that are 2-17 cm long and arising from a basal rosette that surmounts a branched crown and large taproot. The basal leaves are 2-8 cm long and are spoon-shaped with long petioles. The few, alternate stem leaves are broadly lance-shaped. Foliage is covered with silvery, star-shaped hairs appressed to the surface. The yellow, stalked flowers are borne at the tops of the stems in a narrow inflorescence that elongates as the fruit matures. Each flower has 4 separate petals that are 9-12 mm long and 4 separate sepals. The ascending, inflated fruits are 1-2 cm long, at least as wide, and flattened on top. They are 2-lobed with the lobes more deeply defined above than below. There are 2 seeds in each of the lobes, attached at the top of the partition between the two lobes, and the partition has a linear outline. The style is 6-9 mm long. Flowering in May-early June, fruiting in June-July.

There are similar-appearing species of *PHYSARIA* but it is not known if their ranges overlap; *P. DIDYMOCARPA* may be in southeastern Montana. It differs from *P. BRASSICOIDES* in having a partition outline that is obovate to elliptic, there are usually 4 seeds per lobe, and attachments between seeds and suture that is not restricted to the apex. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.